

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

REMARKS

MAY 22 2007

Claims in the Application. Claims 26-33 have been added. Claims 1-4, 7, 14-16, 22 and 23 have been amended. Claims 5, 6, 8-13, 17-21 and 25 have been cancelled from this application. Accordingly, Claims 1-4, 7, 14-16, 22, 23 and 26-33 are active in this application.

Examiner's Rejection over Pounds. The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 5-6, 8-14 and 17-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,462,721 ("Pounds"). The rejection is traversed.

Independent Claims 1, 14 and 23 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter indicated in page 6 of the Office Action. It is believed that the amendments of the claims obviate the need to discuss this rejection. Reconsideration is therefore respectfully requested.

Examiner's Rejection Over Warrender. The Examiner has further rejected Claims 1, 5-6, 8-14 and 17-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,267,938 ("Warrender"). This ground for rejection is also traversed.

Independent Claims 1, 14 and 23 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter indicated in page 6 of the Office Action. It is believed that the amendments of the claims obviate the need to discuss this rejection. Reconsideration is therefore respectfully requested.

Examiner's Rejection Over Oakes. The Examiner has further rejected Claims 1, 5-6, 8-14 and 17-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 4,452,764 ("Oakes"). This ground for rejection is also traversed.

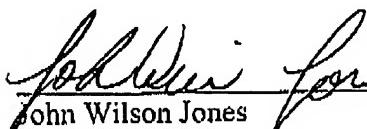
Independent Claims 1, 14 and 23 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter indicated in page 6 of the Office Action. It is believed that the amendments of the claims obviate the need to discuss this rejection. Reconsideration is therefore respectfully requested.

Examiner's Rejection Over Landeck. The Examiner has further rejected Claim 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,413,627 ("Landeck"). Claim 25 has been cancelled which renders a discussion of this rejection unnecessary.

Conclusion. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned in order to expedite the prosecution of this application. It is believed that the claims to the amendments and the remarks

expressed herein put this application in condition for allowance. Early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


John Wilson Jones
Registration No. 31,380

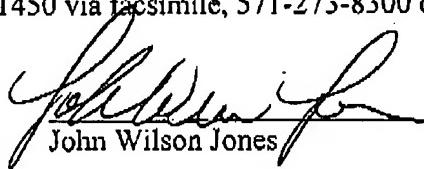
Dated: May 22, 2007

JONES & SMITH, LLP
2777 Allen Parkway, Suite 800
Houston, Texas 77019
Telephone No.: (713) 528-3100
Facsimile No.: (713) 893-6076

◦
CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.6(d)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 via facsimile, 571-273-8300 on this 22nd day of May, 2007.

May 22, 2007


John Wilson Jones